Elderly man killed as terrorist rams bus stop, opens fire on cars in north

March 24, 2025

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The Times of Israel

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/man-75-killed-as-terror-suspect-rams-bus-stop-opens-fire-on-cars-in-north/>

An elderly driver was shot dead and a soldier was seriously injured in a terror attack on a northern highway, authorities said Monday morning.

The terrorist was killed by Border Police officers who happened to be passing by as the attack took place near the lower Galilee city of Yokne’am, police said in a statement.

The victim was identified as Moshe Horan, 85, from Kibbutz HaZore’a. According to Hebrew media reports, his son, 51, was sitting next to him in the car when the terrorist fired a volley of shots at them, killing Horan.

Defense authorities later named the attacker as Karem Jabarin, 25, from the Arab-majority town of Ma’ale Iron.

According to police, Jabarin initially rammed his vehicle into a bus stop at the Tishbi Junction on Route 66 where the soldier, 20, had been waiting.

Jabarin then exited his car and stabbed the soldier.

Grabbing the soldier’s rifle, Jabarin ran down the highway and opened fire at passing cars, shooting and killing Horan.

The Magen David Adom ambulance service said medics declared Horan dead at the scene.

The soldier, who serves as a heavy-load truck driver in the Armored Corps, was hospitalized in serious condition at Rambam Medical Center in Haifa. The emergency service said his condition had not been stabilized.

Footage circulated on social media showed the attacker running with the rifle along the highway and shooting into a car as it drove past.

In the video, Jabarin continues to open fire before falling to the ground, apparently after being shot by the Border Police officers who arrived at the scene.

Eyewitness Gideon Shalom, who had been the only other person at the bus stop, told the Kan broadcaster that he just stepped away to get better cell phone reception when the terrorist crashed a car into the small shelter.

“At first, I thought it was an accident, so I ran toward him. He got out with a 30-centimeter [12-inch] knife. I escaped over the road barrier, he stabbed the young man, and I heard two shots in my direction,” he said.

Shalom said he tried to warn a passing driver but the attacker was still able to fire at the vehicle.

“It was a nightmare what happened here,” he said.

The attack ended when Border Police officers on their way to a training exercise spotted Jabarin firing the rifle. They swiftly exited their vehicle and opened fire at him, police said.

Horan, known by his nickname “Musa,” was reportedly well-known to agriculturists in the Jezreel Valley area and was still active overseeing workers in the fields.

In a statement, the kibbutz mourned “a family man, committed to his children and his life as the silver lining in the life of the community where he was born and lived his whole life.”

An avid gardener with “golden hands,” Horan, “who had an eternal smile on his face,” was also “a skilled carpenter,” the kibbutz said.

His parents were among the founders of the kibbutz, which was established by German immigrants in 1936, and he was one of the first children born to the new community, the Walla outlet reported.

Close friend Saul Kochavi told Walla that throughout his life Horan worked growing crops, and earned a reputation during the 1960s as one of the best melon farmers in the country. He later moved on to pineapples and cotton.

Horan is survived by his wife Betty, and four children, Rotem, Ofir, Alon and Iris. He has ten grandchildren.

The kibbutz said funeral arrangements were yet to be organized.

The attack came after several weeks of relative calm following a spate of attacks earlier this year, many of them centered in northern Israel.

On March 3, an Israeli man carrying a knife stabbed a man to death and injured four others at a major transit hub in the northern city of Haifa. The assailant, a member of the Druze community, was shot and killed. His family said he suffered from mental illness.

Days earlier, a Palestinian man steered his car into a crowd of people waiting at a bus stop near the city of Pardes Hanna in northern Israel in a terror spree that killed a teen girl and injured 12 others, authorities said. The attacker was killed at the scene.